

Sudan-Kenya row surfaces

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Saturday it had ordered two Kenyan diplomats to leave within 48 hours after two of its own diplomats were expelled from Nairobi. Khartoum radio said the Kenyans were the second and third ranking officers in the embassy. It did not give their names and there was no immediate comment from the embassy. The radio said the two Sudanese were expelled after a senior Sudanese diplomat in Nairobi gave a news conference at which he said a Kenyan-held border area belonged to Sudan. Sudan says it has sovereignty over the area under an 1914 agreement. All Youssouf, the head of the Sudanese mission, told Reuters in Nairobi that the Kenyan Foreign Ministry summoned him and embassy counsellor Naser Basher and asked them to leave immediately. Youssouf said they were accused of conduct incompatible with their status, a diplomatic phrase for spying.

Volume 14 Number 4027

AMMAN SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1989, RAJAB 27, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

Shevardnadze to discuss Mideast peace with Baker

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday he planned to discuss the Middle East with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at their first formal discussions next week in Vienna.

Shevardnadze, who recently returned from a 10-day Middle East tour, said there were many ways for the superpowers to cooperate in bringing about a peace settlement in the region.

"I plan in part to share with the U.S. secretary of state impressions from my trip to the Middle East," he said in an interview with the Soviet news agency TASS.

"There is vast room for cooperation on problems of a Middle East settlement between the USSR and the United States as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," he said.

During his five-state tour of the Middle East last month, Shevardnadze said the United Nations Security Council should start preparing an international peace conference.

Israel opposes such a conference, and Washington has been mostly non-committal.

Shevardnadze told TASS he had no strict agenda for his meeting with Baker, which is scheduled for Tuesday in Vienna where both men will attend the start of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks.

Moscow's support for Cuba and Nicaragua and U.S. diplomatic pressure against Managua will be discussed.



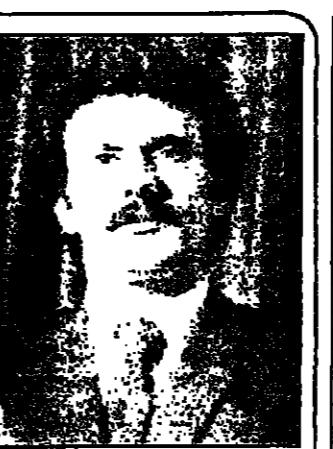
HM King Hussein



Saddam Hussein



Hosni Mubarak



Ali Abdullah Saleh

King briefs ACC leaders on Tokyo talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned the presidents of Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen to consult with them on a number of issues of concern to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein briefed President Saddam Hussein of Iraq,

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the outcome of his talks with world leaders in Tokyo during his stay there last week to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

EC welcomes ACC

The European Community (EC) has welcomed the creation

last month of the ACC.

"The community and its member states welcome the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic," said a statement released here Saturday.

"They trust that process of economic integration thus initi-

ated and which is open to other Arab countries, will encourage the social and economic development in the Middle East as well as peace in the region," it said.

"In this regard, the community could envisage complementing this effort of regional integration by cooperation on matters of mutual interest."

Jordan celebrates Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with Arab and Islamic countries, Sunday celebrates Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised a religious ceremony at Al Husseini mosque downtown Amman attended by religious leaders and worshippers.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat delivered a speech underlining the meaning of the great religious occasion.

Other speakers included the Kingdom's mufti who called on Muslims to unify their ranks and serve the cause of Islam.

Religious ceremonies were also held in other parts of the Kingdom on the eve of the holy occasion.

His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes that came from the prime minister, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the chief Islamic justice, and heads of public and private organisations and key public figures.

Sunday is to be observed as public holiday. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed.

Also on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast all liquor stores, nightclubs and bars will remain closed until Monday morning.

PLO rejects unilateral end to attacks from Lebanon

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday rejected a unilateral halt to resistance operations in South Lebanon and said it wanted a comprehensive peace rather than temporary truce with Israel.

Responding to U.S. criticism of its raids from Lebanon, the PLO said it was astonishing that Washington concentrated on its resistance role when Israel was bombing villages and refugee camps in Lebanon.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Friday that recent PLO attempts to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon raised questions about its commitment to renounce terrorism.

mediators," the statement said.

"The PLO, which has launched an initiative to bring about a just peace in the region, is not striving for a temporary truce but that there should be a lasting, comprehensive and just peace at the same time," it added.

It said Israel was trying to make the United States confuse terrorism and legitimate self-defense.

Israel has described infiltration attempts by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) as terrorism which should prompt the United States to break off its new dialogue with the PLO.

(Continued on page 2)

Waldegrave tours Gaza Strip, says occupation must end

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies)

— British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave toured a Gaza Strip refugee camp Saturday and said what he saw strengthened his belief that Israel's military occupation must end. "Coming here, even more than to the West Bank, reinforces the impression of utter impossibility of continuing this military occupation," Waldegrave said after briefly visiting Jabalya camp, the most populated area under Israeli occupation.

Jabalya, with 55,000 residents, is where the first clashes erupted in the nearly 15-month-old Palestinian uprising. Confrontations take place almost daily.

tors.

"I'm told they are fired in clusters, in a shower," Waldegrave said. "They are an indiscriminate weapon and are not helping to produce a political settlement."

On Friday, Waldegrave toured the West Bank.

Waldegrave, who is on a week-long fact-finding mission, is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Sunday and will depart Monday for Jordan.

Waldegrave also announced that Britain would contribute £500,000 to help Palestinian refugees.

(Continued on page 2)

Tehran signals mellowing position on Rushdie row

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran

appeared to soften its stance on "The Satanic Verses" controversy Saturday, saying Britain's admission that the novel insults Islam was insufficient, but that prosecuting the author Salman Rushdie could defuse the crisis.

The British stance in accepting that the book is insulting, though belated, can avert the present crisis only if it is following up with practical measures," state-run Tehran Radio said in a commentary, monitored in Nicosa.

British officials have acknowledged that the book offends Muslims, but that did not justify Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's decree calling on Muslims to kill Rushdie for blasphemy.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd told a news conference in London Saturday that he understood "the hurt and insult being felt" by Muslims over Rushdie's book, but that he believes the majority of Britons accept "that in a free country people have the right of freedom of expression."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday that she understood "The Satanic Verses" had deeply offended Muslims but that Islam, as one of the world's great religions, was strong enough to withstand the novel's criticism.

Iran said "there has been no formal response from Tehran to the British government's overtures." But it noted that Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Friday that Britain eventually would have to apologize for its "anti-Islamic stand."

Rushdie, in hiding since Feb.

14 when Khomeini ordered Mus-

9 killed,
50 hurt
in British
rail crash

LONDON (R) — Nine people were killed and at least 50 injured when two passenger trains collided Saturday in the second major train crash in South London in three months, a hospital spokesman said.

He said six people died at the scene and three in hospital after two trains crashed into each other near the suburban station of Purley.

Several carriages crashed down a steep slope into gardens and rolled over, leaving others perched precariously on the edge of the embankment. Firemen rushed to the scene to cut passengers free and hospital workers aided the injured.

Witness Meesha Foster said six trees were cut in half by the force of carriages careering off the rails.

"I could hear people shouting and groaning... there was a lot of blood and I saw one body covered with a blanket. There was one man with his leg hanging off," she said.

Junior Transport Minister Michael Portillo inspected the wreckage of the accident, which occurred just three months after the Clapham train crash killed 35.

"It's a terrible scene. There is a lot of destruction," he said.

"There was a very loud crash after the collision followed by an eerie silence," said Samantha Muggeridge, who was on the platform at Purley station a few hundred metres from the crash.

"Then doors of the train started to open and there were shouts from inside the carriages."

Rosemary Jetten, who lives right by the crash site, said: "I heard a loud bang and looked out of my back window. I saw a cloud of smoke and trees flying through the air and could see the train coming off the bank into my garden."

Scholarship regulations approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved new scholarship regulations which pertain only to students scholarships after transferring the affairs of civil servants scholarships to the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission. A committee supervising students' scholarships was set up under the chairmanship of the minister of higher education. The Cabinet, during a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also approved an amendment to the regulation of civil servants travel, approved the budget of the Postal Savings Fund and the distribution of JD 13 million revenues from fuel sales to municipal and rural councils

Israeli army foils 'Day of Peace'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops turned back hundreds of Israelis who tried to visit Palestinians during a "Day of Peace" Saturday but several hundred others were allowed into the occupied West Bank, organisers of the demonstration said.

Local leaders of the Palestinian uprising, in a leaflet issued Friday, had called on Palestinians to welcome the supporters of the Peace Now movement "with open arms."

Sources quoted by Reuters said Palestinians waiting for the groups to arrive clashed with troops in the centre of Ramallah and two were injured by gunshots.

About 1,500 Peace Now supporters set out from four cities Saturday morning heading for towns in the West Bank. Organisers said troops set up roadblocks and stopped three groups heading for Ramallah, Nablus and Beit Sahour.

But a Peace Now spokesman, Amrullah Goldbloom, said several hundred others persuaded soldiers to let them visit two villages near Nablus.

He said another group of about 200 met Palestinians at Beit Sira near Ramallah.

Organisers said troops at roadblocks showed the organisers an army order declaring districts near Hebron and Ramallah to be closed military areas.

The organisers said they then contacted Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to ask permission to travel to the West Bank but he denied the request because they did not have the proper permits. Eitan Haber, an aide to Rabin, confirmed this.

The peace activists were outraged by Rabin's order to prevent the meetings, and criticised him for "surrender" to pressure from Jewish settlers. They said he was using the army for political purposes.

"We weren't planning any," the leaflet said.

Kabul gets supplies in Najibullah-rebel deal

KABUL (R) — A convoy of several hundred trucks carrying food and fuel from the Soviet Union reached the Afghan capital virtually unscathed Saturday following a deal struck between rebels and President Najibullah.

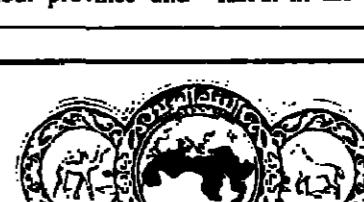
Afghan officials said up to 600 trucks arrived from the Soviet border town of Termez and 300 more were expected Sunday.

Truck drivers reported foul weather along the route down the Salang Highway from the Soviet border to Kabul through territory held by rebels but only a single attack, apparently launched by a rival group not a party to the deal.

"There was only one Mujahideen attack," said Abdul Fatah, a convoy organiser. He said three rockets were fired from mountains north of Kabul. One set fire to a fuel tanker but the driver dealt with it.

Fatah was referring to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a hardline Afghan rebel leader opposed to any compromise with Najibullah.

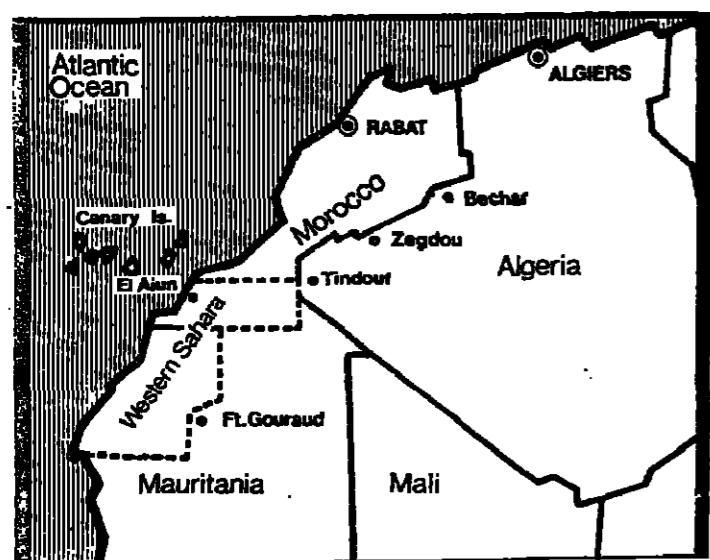
The deal would account for both the approach of the convoy, which had been delayed for nearly a week, and the absence of rebel shelling or rocket attacks on Kabul in the past 12 days.



CONGRATULATIONS
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Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant Your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.



Morocco to ratify 17-year-old treaty

RABAT (R) — King Hassan said Friday Morocco would ratify a treaty signed 17 years ago with Algeria to settle a 1,150-kilometre desert border dispute.

He said the move was part of a new political mood after the two countries restored ties in May last year after a 12-year rift and the creation last month of a Maghreb union linking them with Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia.

In a broadcast marking his 28th year on the throne, the king said Rabat "decided to ratify the treaty signed between Morocco and Algeria in 1972 regarding the frontier line."

Algeria ratified the treaty soon after it was signed. The king said unspecified circumstances stopped Rabat ratifying it earlier, a reference to a dispute over the Western Sahara where Algerian-backed guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for independence.

The Polisario Front guerrillas held their first peace talks with Morocco in January and declared a ceasefire last month.

PLO rejects unilateral move

(Continued from page 1)

PLO leader Yasser Arafat made the dialogue possible last December by accepting U.S. conditions including renunciation of terrorism. Washington has never given a definition of the word.

"The PLO renounces terrorism completely and rejects it completely... and hopes this U.S. administration will not fall into this confusion (between terrorism and self-defence)," the statement said.

"As everyone knows, the PLO is able to keep what it commits itself to, officially, legally and in practice."

Arab League U.N. envoy Clodius Maksoud said in Abu Dhabi Saturday that Palestinian attacks on Israeli forces in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip could not be described as terrorism.

"We are deeply concerned about the pattern which the U.S. administration is developing concerning its interpretation of its dialogue with the PLO," he said.

"The United States is becoming a relay station for Israel's

treaty was signed after a brief war in 1963 over the border from Figuig in the north to Tindouf in the south.

It decided that Tindouf Oasis, which became a major Polisario base, was in southwest Algeria but that nearby iron ore mines at Gara Djebel would be exploited jointly.

Algeria, which won independence from France in 1962, has now finalised its frontiers with all its neighbours.

King Hassan also pardoned 1,204 prisoners to mark the anniversary of his accession to the throne, the Justice Ministry said.

Crowds of relatives and friends gathered outside prisons, notably at the central prison in Kenitra north of Rabat where political prisoners are held.

Rumours that Hassan would release prisoners convicted of plotting against the monarchy could not be immediately confirmed but in a recent interview he said he would "make a gesture" in their favour.

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"(It) must realise that the (Palestinian) uprising has to be accepted as an ongoing legitimate resistance and not as the Israeli's term it 'violent riots,'" he said.

"We also consider Lebanese and Palestinian resistance in South Lebanon to be legitimate acts against Israel's direct... occupation (of Lebanon)," said Maksoud, adding that calling such attacks terrorism was totally unacceptable.

He said a new Soviet plan for Middle East peace was better than proposals out of Washington and Arab states did not see it as an attempt to undermine U.S. influence in the region.

"Rather, it carries within it the seeds of assisting the United States in developing its own clear and coherent Middle East policies in the spirit of superpower detente," he said.

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Waldegrave hits occupation

(Continued from page 1)

"It is imperative that all of us should do this to show the people that they are not forgotten," Waldegrave said of the British contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees.

But he added, "it is no good to buy them off, they need a political solution."

Waldegrave said Friday that Israeli arguments that the situation in the occupied territories would improve with time were "crazy."

Speaking at the entrance to Nablus, Waldegrave also told Palestinians they should eschew violence and adopt Gandhi-like methods of non-violent resist-

Mahdi expected to resign but may be renominated

Hardliners may stay out of Sudan's new cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — The new government taking shape in Sudan is expected to mark a strong shift towards peace talks with southern rebels, official and diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The new coalition, being formed under pressure from Sudan's armed forces, is likely to exclude the main party of Muslim hardliners and bring in a group which tried to broker a settlement with the rebels last year, the sources said.

Whether Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi will lead the new coalition is unclear.

He is widely expected to announce his resignation Sunday. But he has no obvious successor from Figuig in the north to Tindouf in the south.

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"The argument that I've heard from

Meeting to discuss means of stimulating exports

By Ziyad Al Shileh
Al Ra'a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A specialised symposium on means of stimulating Jordanian exports is due to be held here on March 19 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan's attendance of the coming symposium, in which a large number of businessmen and industrialists will participate, reflects the Crown Prince's continued encouragement of efforts to bolster the national economy through increasing exports, said Khalid Al Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry which is sponsoring the meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MEETING ON PHOSPHATES: Measures to increase the amount of phosphates, which is being transported from the southern Jordan mines to the port city of Aqaba for export, were among the main topics discussed at a meeting held at the Aqaba Railway Corporation Saturday. The meeting grouped Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and heads of concerned authorities. The corporation's 1989 operational programme was also examined during the meeting. (Petra)

CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN: In cooperation with the Arab Youth Forum (AYF), the Tourism Ministry organised a cleanliness campaign in the Dead Sea area. The campaign, which is being carried out by 50 young men and women from the AYF, covers a stretch of land extending from Sweimeh in the north to Zara in the south. (Petra)

ABANDA ATTENDS KUWAIT SEMINAR: The Meteorology Department has taken part in a specialised symposium held in Kuwait on Feb. 27, with the participation of eight other Arab countries. The department's Director General Ali Abanda, who attended the symposium, said that 28 research papers were submitted to the symposium. (Petra)

IRBID AGRICULTURAL MEETING: A meeting was held in Irbid Saturday to discuss the implementation of instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on organising animal grazing in the Irbid Governorate pasture lands. Several specialists addressed the meeting, outlined proper grazing methods and presented ideas on combating desert locusts. (Petra)

STUDENTS VISIT REHABILITATION CENTRE: A group of students from the University of Jordan visited the Reformatory and Rehabilitation Centre at Swaqa south of Amman and were briefed on vocational training work offered to the prison inmates aimed at making them useful and productive citizens. University officials and police officers accompanied the students on their visit. (Petra)

CANADIAN EXPERT VISITS QOU: Dr. Gail Crawford, Canadian expert in the field of distance education and instructional Psychologist at the Centre for Distance Education at Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada, is currently visiting Al-Quds Open University for two weeks until March 10, 1989. During that period Crawford will meet with QOU staff members in the academic, administrative and production departments. The objective of Crawford's consultancy and training mission is to advise QOU staff in the field of course materials developments. (Petra)

SATELLITE DISCUSSION: The American Cultural Centre in Amman will host a live television conference on Venture Capital Monday in which Jordanian economics experts will trade views with American businessmen on the problem of finding investment capital for high-growth enterprises employing new technologies. Dr. Jawad Anani, President of the Royal Scientific Society, and other Jordanian economic experts will exchange views via satellite with the Washington guests, Mr. David Gladstone, President of the Allied Capital Corporation, and Dr. Barry Rogstad, President of the American Business Conference. (J.T.)

16 JOURNALISTS SWORN IN: A total of 16 journalists Saturday were sworn in as members of the Jordan Press Association. The swearing in ceremony was attended by Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh and Association President Rakan Al Majali. The minister, in a brief speech on the occasion, called on journalists to be extra careful in reporting news and information in their drive to serve their country and community. Majali for his part reviewed the association's achievements over the past years. The ministry's secretary general attended the ceremony. (Petra)

MOROCCAN NATIONAL DAY: Moroccan Ambassador to Jordan Abdul Latif Laraki Saturday evening held a reception at the Marriott Hotel on the occasion of King Hassan's accession to the throne. The reception was attended by senior government officials, key public figures and members of the diplomatic community in the Kingdom. (J.T.)

MORE CEMENT SHIPPED TO EGYPT: A consignment of 22,500 tonnes of Jordanian cement was shipped Thursday aboard the vessel Ghadir to Egypt. This is the sixth consignment sent to Egypt in accordance with the agreement signed in late July which provides for exporting 750,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt. With this consignment, a total of 130,000 tonnes of cement has thus been exported to Egypt. (Petra)

LOANS FOR PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and chairman of the board of directors of Cities and Villages Development Bank Marwan Al Hmoud has agreed to grant a loan of JD 1 million to Zarqa municipality to be used in various municipal projects. He also agreed to grant a loan of JD 500,000 to Irbid Municipality for opening roads and JD 35,000 to Mut'a Municipality to finance the construction of a municipality building. (Petra)

SUPPLY LAW VIOLATOR FINED: The military court has sentenced Salaheddin Salem Ali Ma'rouf to the payment of JD 100 fine or 200 days in prison for violating supply regulations and raising the prices of foodstuffs. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasif Gallery.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bous and Munira Al Tunisya at Al Qadisiya College.
- * An exhibition of photographs and paintings showing the main European cities in three historical eras, at the University of Jordan.
- * An exhibition of paintings for children by Titiya Rifai and Karoline Ayoub at Haya Arts Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Rula Shuaib at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmed Sabeh at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Jordan National Gallery.
- * Amman International Book Exhibition which includes various scientific, literary, religious and children's books at the International Motor Centre.



Qasem receives East German envoy

EAST German Ambassador-designate to Jordan Carl Heinz Logenhein Saturday handed a copy of his credentials to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. Logenhein

who will be non-resident ambassador in Amman succeeds Wolfgang Grabowski who had served as ambassador here since 1985 (Petra photo)

Tarawneh: Frozen meat imports will not replace fresh one

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Supply Fayed Tarawneh has denied that the frozen meat to be imported by Jordan this year will serve as a substitute for fresh meat which Jordan normally imports from East European countries.

In a television interview Tarawneh said that Jordan will import 15,000 tonnes of meat during 1989, of which 10,000 will be fresh and the rest frozen.

The frozen meat will be imported from New Zealand and tests on samples of New Zealand meat proved to be of very high quality, the minister noted.

He said that the frozen meat as well as the imported frozen poultry meat and fish are no substitute for fresh meat but they are needed to achieve a balance in the types of foodstuffs consumed in Jordan.

Tarawneh also stressed that the Ministry of Supply has no intention of raising the price of imported meat or stopping imports altogether despite the recent rise in the cost of air freight.

The minister said that consignments of frozen meat are expected in Jordan by June, but these will consist mainly of meat of no more than 15 kilograms per head.

During the holy month of Ramadan Tarawneh said the Ministry of Supply plans to import additional quantities of meat and other foodstuffs.

He noted that the ministry is constantly increasing the capacity of its warehouses to store as much food as possible to suffice the Kingdom for at least six months.

He said Jordan's wheat production this year is expected to increase by 50 per cent to reach 75,000 tonnes.

The two sides discussed prospects for cooperation between ESCWA and the centre at the local and regional levels.

Jordan took part in a three-day meeting by ESCWA's statistics technical committee which was

Anani, Turkish team discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A Turkish team representing the Scientific Research Council in Ankara (Tubitak) Saturday opened talks at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to pave the way for future cooperation in scientific and technological fields.

The leader of the team Kudrat Felcuk met with RSS President Ismail Al Anani and heads of RSS departments and said later that Turkey was ready to open new scopes of cooperation that can benefit the two countries.

Anani said that the RSS seeks to promote cooperation between Jordan and Turkey in technical and technological fields with special attention on preserving potential energy in buildings, solar and wind power, with a view to supplying electricity to remote sites.

"We hope that the two sides will employ energy to benefit agriculture and to launch high level cooperation between

versities in training personnel to be employed in energy related projects in the two countries," Anani said.

The visiting team had a meeting later with experts from the Building Research Centre at the RSS and discussed fields of cooperation in construction of low-cost housing.

According to an RSS statement the two sides will discuss joint projects in matters related to monitoring earthquakes, and constructing earthquake-resistant homes, preserving energy in buildings, solar and wind energy, and training programmes for Turkish and Jordanian technicians.

The visit, according to the statement, comes in the framework of a joint cooperation agreement signed by the two sides in 1986.

On Sunday, the three-member Turkish team will visit the Building Research Centre project, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.

ESCPWA director visits Royal Geographic Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCPWA) Dr. Ahmad Rajai concluded in Baghdad Thursday.

The ESCPWA meeting decided to hold the second Arab conference on statistics in Amman in November 1989 and recommended that Arab countries in the region maintain their cooperation with the Arab League in the coming two years to finalise a statistics coordination programme, which entails training of personnel and providing services in statistics related affairs.

The three-day meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Palestine, Egypt, Kuwait, North Yemen and Lebanon, as well as a number of Arab League affiliated organisations.

Tunisian delegation inspect facilities for combating locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A visiting Tunisian delegation Saturday held talks with officials and specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and inspected facilities for combating desert locusts that have invaded the Kingdom.

Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in agriculture were discussed at a meeting grouping the visiting delegation and Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi.

The delegation, which repre-

sents the Tunisian Agency for Agricultural Reform led by Hussein Zaghier, discussed with Lawzi questions related to rural development and agrarian reform in the Kingdom.

The delegation members were later taken on a visit to the operations room controlling locust combatting operations and were briefed on the preparations and equipment used as well as the precautionary measures being taken by the ministry to deal with

expected locust invasions.

The delegation members later visited the Zarqa River basin and were briefed on the progress of a project designed to preserve and protect the soil from erosion through planting forests alongside the river.

The project entails measures to reduce the amount of silt that can be deposited at the bottom of the King Talal Dam which provides water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley region.

Ministry prepares to meet the locust menace

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Machinery Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is busily producing exhaust sprayers that will be essential in the campaign against the locust invasion that is expected this spring.

Late last year, anticipating the need to outfit trucks and other vehicles with spray equipment, department director, Samir Fanash ordered two exhaust sprayers from England.

Using the imported sprayers as a model, Fanash's workmen designed a more rugged but inexpensive sprayer for use in Jordan. While an imported sprayer costs over JD 800, the workshop produces sprayers for only JD 70 each. Only the pressure gauge is imported.

Fanash's workshop which is located at the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) in Baq'a, has produced 130 sprayers and has begun exporting some to Sudan and Saudi Arabia where the need for the equipment is great.

Mounted on vehicles, the sprayers are easily activated when connected to the vehicle exhaust. The exhaust forces a vertical

spray of pesticide into the air as the vehicle crosses an infested field of orchard. According to experts, Jordan's supply of exhaust sprayers will be a major asset in the control of locusts.

Ground spraying is useful against both marching and flying swarms that have roosted for the night. Ground spraying is the most efficient technique to control locust swarms that are less than 100 hectares in size, and which are located in areas accessible by vehicle.

Although there is a great deal of knowledge about locust behaviour, none can predict precisely what sort of challenge the pests will pose for Jordan. That depends upon the weather and measures taken to control the swarms in nearby countries. Therefore the government of Jordan and concerned donors are working together to have mechanisms ready for meeting the forthcoming challenges.

When locust swarms were reported in Saudi Arabia in October 1988, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) offered its assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture in preparing to combat the forthcoming challenges.

Jordan as the swarms spread north.

Dr. Randall Cummings, Director of USAID's agriculture office here, was asked to take the lead in coordinating international donor assistance. At the request of the government of Jordan, he called a meeting on Nov. 7 to alert the international community to the potential need for assistance, and to discuss how the group could pool resources and have them available in a timely manner.

USAID supported a Locust Control Fund at the Agricultural Credit Corporation to receive donations and track expenditures, to which USAID has contributed \$450,000 for aircraft and fuel, and \$25,000 for protective clothing. Canada has added 50,000 Canadian dollars, and Japan \$160,000.

Also at the request of the government international donors are delivering a variety of equipment and expertise. The Islamic Development Bank has provided 14 Toyota land cruisers and USAID's National Agriculture Development Project has made available 5 pickup trucks. Great Britain has donated microneaire sprayers and protective clothing. Two MI-2 helicopters have been made available by Iraq, and Arab Wings has made available an Islander plane. Germany is providing technical assistance in communication equipment, and over 20 tonnes of pesticides.

USAID recently brought an operations and logistics specialist in locust control, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture. The specialist is a United States Forest Service employee currently working with the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance on locust control. His expertise is aerial spraying for pest, weed, and fire control.

The specialist was asked by the Royal Jordanian Air Force to help calibrate equipment for aerial spraying. Calibration assures that the correct amount of pesticide to cover the area being treated is dispensed. Too little would not do the job, and too much would damage crops, endanger health, and waste a very expensive chemical. Calibration also insures that the right droplet size is being dispensed so that the spray is not so fine as to evaporate but is fine enough to cover the ground uniformly.

Jordan and 4 Middle East states discuss grid interconnection

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a power grid interconnection in the region and promote cooperation among themselves in energy-related fields.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) offices, is being attended by representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, whose countries last January reached tentative agreements in Ankara on launching the scheme.

The meeting of experts was opened by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib who said Jordan attaches importance to this project and the deliberations which would pave the way for coordination and close cooperation among the five countries.

Jordan and Syria has been cooperating in power supply matters over the past 10 years and Jordan and Egypt are now heading towards linking their national grids, a project which is expected to take four years to implement according to JEA officials.

Following the Ankara meeting it was announced that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids at a later stage with that of Europe through Turkey.

The technical committee in Amman is the first of its kind and was decided on by the ministers of energy in the five countries during their meeting in Ankara.

JEA Director Muhammed Said Arafeh represents Jordan at the meeting.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Energy officials and specialists from Jordan, Egypt and an international consultancy firm have completed a feasibility study on a project for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and a full report was submitted to the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo recently.

The \$170 million project will take four years to implement according to JEA officials.

Jordan and Syria has been cooperating in power supply matters over the past 10 years and Jordan and Egypt are now heading towards linking their national grids, a project which is expected to take three years to complete, Khatib noted.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are also studying the prospect of linking their grids and the way is open for linking the three countries with other states in the region, Khatib added.

The delegates are discussing technical aspects of the interconnection scheme among their countries in a bid to agree on a programme for implementation which will be preceded first by a feasibility study, according to a JEA statement.

The visiting team had a meeting later with experts from the Building Research Centre at the RSS and discussed fields of cooperation in construction of low-cost housing.

According to an RSS statement the two sides will discuss joint projects in matters related to monitoring earthquakes, and constructing earthquake-resistant homes, preserving energy in buildings, solar and wind energy, and training programmes for Turkish and Jordanian technicians.

The visit, according to the statement, comes in the framework of a joint cooperation agreement signed by the two sides in 1986.

On Sunday, the three-member Turkish team will visit the Building Research Centre project, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.

Representatives of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey Saturday hold talks on energy issues at the JEA offices in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordan, India to discuss further boosting economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India this month open talks designed to further boost economic and trade cooperation and look into prospects of launching joint ventures, according to an announcement released here Saturday.

The talks will be conducted through the Joint Jordanian-Indian Economic Committee, which will convene during March, to review these matters under the co-chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqaf and the under secretary of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Trade, the announcement said.

It said that the two sides will look into the prospect of increasing Jordanian products to India, especially phosphate, potash and cement.

According to official statistics India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash and its imports of Jordanian phosphates and other fertil

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة توزع يومية عربية سلسلة مكتبة تصور بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسات الصحفية العربية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

Let the rule of law reign

IT IS a foregone conclusion that Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" is intolerably offensive to Islam and irreversibly repugnant to the essence of Islamic teachings and precepts. What is more, the whole affair of that diabolic book has reactivated age-old religious and intellectual intolerances towards the Muslims that are reminiscent of the dark days of the Crusaders.

The irony of all this is that the whole debacle could have been nipped in the bud had it been handled legally right from the start. In every country where the book was published there is a sufficient body of domestic laws that prohibits any publications or utterances that tend to ridicule or defame religion. The promotion of religious tolerance is an organic law deeply embedded in domestic and international legislations. Practically, all jurisprudences worldwide have construed the edict of religious tolerance to include the prohibition not only of any attack, slander or defamation against any religious belief, but also of any word or deed which touches negatively on religious sensitivity. International fora on human rights have more than enough references to the need to accord reverence to religions and to afford them protection and respect. Thus, on the strength of the laws of each and every country where the book in question was published and distributed, legal proceedings could have been taken to stop the acts of blasphemy committed against Islam as maliciously portrayed in Rushdie's book.

The chain reaction of acrimonious and vengeful events that ensued on state level from Rushdie's debacle could have thus been broken. Above all the diplomatic row that developed in the aftermath of the publication of the book could have also been avoided. If legal recourse to stop the dissemination of falsehoods on Islam prove to be insufficient, then the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) would become seized with the issue to adopt the necessary and appropriate policies regarding any country which frustrates the legal process.

As for Salman Rushdie, his fate should have been addressed by an Islamic tribunal as a deterrent to all others who may contemplate violating Islam. To be sure, Islam's ways are not the cowboy ways. Islam does not call for dispatching a posse to lynch infidels. Nor does Islam offer bounties for the heads of the enemies of Islam. Islam is a religion of grandeur that applies the most sophisticated systems of justice. Muslims do not wish to molest the image of true Islam in the process of redeeming the wrongs committed against it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic newspapers commented Saturday on statements by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper in which he tackled Arab affairs and the Jordanian domestic situation. Al Ra'i daily said that the prime minister emphasised two important points in his statements: King Hussein's continued drive to end Arab differences, and the government's efforts to rebuild the national economy and bolster the national currency. The paper said that the King is keen on ending all Arab differences and unifying Arab ranks at a time when the Arab World is confronted by a number of serious questions. The prime minister said that Jordan does not face an economic problem but rather a financial crisis which emanated from the failure of some Arab states to fulfil their financial commitment to the Kingdom in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions, the paper noted. It said that Jordan can and will overcome the present difficult circumstances and will continue to shoulder its national task regardless of the difficulties and whether the Arab countries honoured their financial commitments to the Kingdom or not because the country is oriented towards serving pan-Arab causes. The paper said that Jordan's endeavours to establish the Arab Cooperation Council and the King's relentless efforts to rally the Arab countries stand out as a proof of the Kingdom's pan-Arab policies.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Tareq Masarweh appeals to the Higher Council for Science and Technology and research centres in the Kingdom to offer farmers and stock breeders new types of animal feed that can be produced locally at the lowest possible cost. He also calls on the concerned authorities to encourage local farmers and people living in the rural regions to raise chicken near their homes like farmers used to do in Jordan tens of years ago to serve side by side with the large poultry farms. The writer says that this measure is badly needed now in view of the soaring prices of animal feed and to help the country cut down on imported concentrates or animal feed for the poultry farms. Masarweh says there is no need to produce 90 million eggs for which there is no market, and there is no need to grow certain types of crops which cannot be sold here or abroad. The writer says that in view of the present economic crisis Jordanians in general and the research centres and universities in particular are called on to adopt a national policy that can ensure food security at the lowest possible cost.

Al Dustour daily described Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's statement published in Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper as comprehensive, tackling different domestic and pan-Arab issues. The paper said that Rifai described Jordan as a bridge and a channel of communications, promoting cooperation among Arab countries and seeking to end differences. This is King Hussein's clear policy at present and it is designed to strengthen the Arab Nation's stand, the paper noted. It also referred to the King's endeavours to convene an international Middle East peace conference to end the Palestine problem, and said that the Kingdom's decision to sever links with the West Bank has obviously opened the way for convening this conference. The prime minister, Al Dustour noted, has referred to the Jordanian-PLO relations as very strong and based on mutual confidence and added that this clearly reflects the Kingdom's orientation towards backing the Palestinian people's just struggle to the end.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fadi Fawaz

Subsidy: Harmful, dangerous and unfair

LAST year, 1988, the actual public expenditure of the government reached JD 1045.7 million, while revenues including aid totalled only JD 705.6 million. The deficit stood thus at JD 340.1 million. The deficit was covered by external and internal borrowing, drawing on the Central Bank overdraft, or deferring payment of due commitments. The financial deficit formed one third of the budget or one fifth of the gross domestic product. These are ratios of such magnitude that should draw the attention of policy-makers, because they represent the underlying reasons behind the financial crisis which the Jordanian economy witnessed recently, and which resulted in 30 per cent depreciation of the dinar and the sudden rise in the cost of living.

Hopefully 1989 may be better but even if we take the figures of the budget, we find that the revenue side was estimated to be JD 772.5 million while the government will spend JD 1035.4 million, thus leaving a large deficit of JD 262.9 million plus any budgeted Arab aid that may not be realised out of the JD 225 million listed in the budget.

On this background, the government finds itself under self-made pressure to subsidise the basic imported commodities. The subsidy needed to maintain the current prices is JD 66 million, of

which JD 36 million will go to bread alone, and the balance to support rice, sugar, red meat, poultry, milk, barley, and corn.

Several points should have been considered before the government made up its mind on the matter of subsidies.

1. The budget of 1989 does not include sufficient allocations for subsidies. Any increase must result into higher deficit and more borrowing.

2. Borrowing abroad to cover the deficit is no more available even if we want it. Therefore, the Central Bank will be the only source of the extra funds, which will endanger the hoped for stability of the dinar, and may subject it to renewed pressure. The public will suffer more despite the artificial benefits.

3. Jordan is in the process of calling on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help. The first known condition of the IMF is to abolish subsidies. How can we be convincing if we embark now on a subsidy programme while our economy was kept almost subsidy-free until last year.

4. Subsidies to imported foodstuff will deal a blow to local producers, who will not be able to compete with the subsidised imports. Food insecurity and shortages will be the natural result.

5. Our people did not reject the rise of prices of imported items for the obvious reason of the higher exchange rate of foreign currencies. If the government could not adjust the prices of basic imported commodities slowly and gradually now, then when?

6. Subsidies are known to be temporary by nature. They must be removed at one point in time when the distortion and losses resulting from them become obvious. Subsidies may be politically sound on the short run, but they are harmful on the longer term, and threaten the stability of the country. Like alcohol or drugs, subsidy is tempting, because the pleasure comes first while the bill comes later on.

Contrary to the general belief, subsidy is not socially fair, it goes to those who consume more not to the needy who consume less. If you eat meat every day you get much more government support than if you cannot afford meat more than once a week.

The economic and social cost of the subsidy will be borne by all the people, while the benefits will go to the rich, the tourists, the guest workers and the traffickers.

Subsidy is as dangerous economically and politically as the external indebtedness if not more. It should not be started at any price.

Solution in territory for peace

By Gad Ya'acobi

ISRAEL STANDS today before crucial decisions whose monumental importance is matched only by their stark simplicity. It can continue to be swept along by the currents of national deterioration that have prevailed in recent years, or it can change gears and adopt a fundamentally new national and societal course.

The burning controversy over the use of plastic bullets as opposed to less plastic means; the argument over the cost of public-transport subsidies vs. dairy and bread subsidies; the "dramatic" discussions over interest rates — all these are important issues. Their bearing on the truly major issues of our day is, however, minimal.

The time has come for a fundamental resolution of our national course, not because it was too early to decide years ago, but precisely because we did not do so. Our failure to decide in the past greatly exacerbated the situation, and renewed failure to do so today will make matters even worse. In the future, we will not be able to achieve what we could have achieved today, just as the missed opportunities for an interim settlement in 1971-72, the unilateral autonomy proposal in 1979-80 and the London Agreement in 1987 all led to a less favourable situation thereafter.

The same thing has happened in other spheres as well. The continuous failure, ever since 1971, to change the electoral system is an inseparable part of the annexation. Its resolution lies not in the further improvement of the types of weapons employed, but in a less favourable situation thereafter.

The intifada is a necessary part of the annexation. Its resolution lies not in the further improvement of the types of weapons employed, but in the quality of its society in danger?

It is not the army that should be the focus of criticism, but the reality of a coercive and creeping annexation. It is this reality which, by its very nature, leads to human-rights violations and to the use of force and which undermines our moral values.

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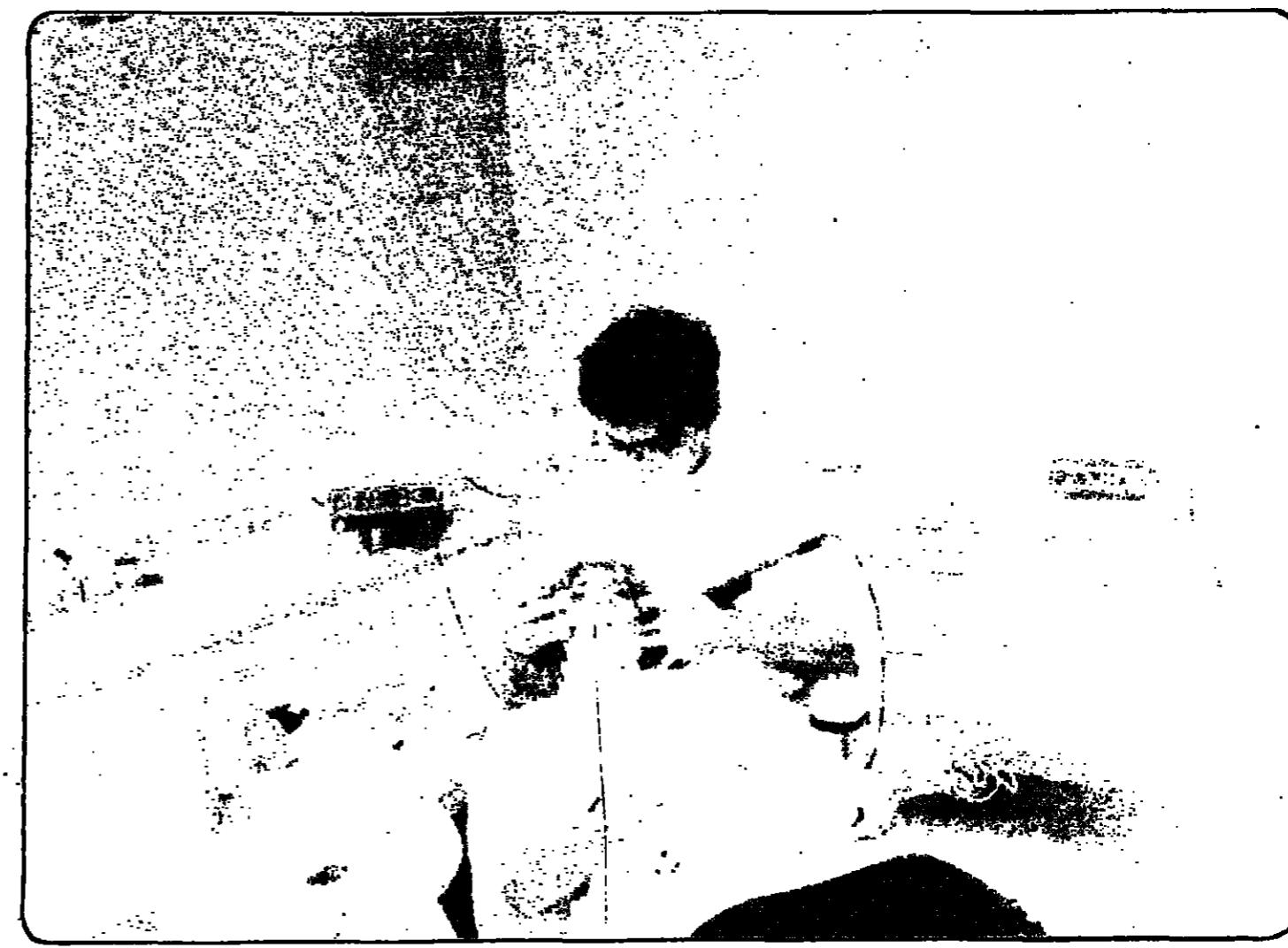
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Medical laser machines — researchers are developing new procedures which will allow the beam of light to perform operations that cannot be done with a scalpel.



Medical lasers go where no scalpel has gone before

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

BOSTON — Lasers, which are being used increasingly in medicine, could help treat heart disease, cancer, and even nearsightedness, industry analysts predict.

Researchers are developing new procedures using the intense beam of light to perform operations that cannot be done with a scalpel.

Lasers are already used to treat several eye diseases and remove everything from warts and haemorrhoids to excess tissue growths and tumours.

Industry analysts in the United States say that within five years some newer types of lasers could also treat wounds and aids, creating a billion-dollar market in the process.

"If the new applications being developed prove successful and

are generally accepted, and I think they will be, they could double the size of the laser market by the mid-1990s," said medical technology consultant Irving Arons.

Arons predicts that the worldwide medical laser market will grow from \$390 million last year to \$350 million by 1992, based on existing applications.

If lasers are approved to clear clogged coronary vessels — a procedure currently being tested by 24 companies in the United States — that market alone could be worth \$400 million a year, Arons said.

Health care

The proliferation of lasers will have an impact not only on their manufacturers but also on the health-care industry as a whole. Because laser treatment does not involve an incision, pro-

Blues music going to a higher level

By Peter Ramjung
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Blues singer-guitarist Robert Cray says the best way for him to fight depression is to pour his heart out on stage, in front of thousands of people.

"When I get on the stage, it's my best time of day. If things bother me, man, I stand up and crank up my amplifier. I pull strings, I yell and scream and I get it all out of my system," said Cray.

His latest album, "don't be afraid of the dark," follows his highly successful "strong persuader," which featured an innovative combination of rhythm and blues and pop-flavoured tunes spread out over emotional blues lyrics.

"We don't play blues exactly like it was played before," Cray, 35, said.

"Ours is a combination of rhythm and blues with touches of rock and jazz in it too with the blues background. It's not that we try to change things, we're just playing what naturally comes out of us."

Cray said that the songs he and his band write are the extensions of what they see and feel in everyday life.

"Don't be afraid of the dark" contains songs about drunkenness, infidelity and voyeurism.

"We write about all these things because we see it, and we write about some things because it affects us," said Cray. "It's just part of who we are, and how things are around us so we just talk about it. We're not ashamed to talk about anything."

This year the Robert Cray Band has been nominated for two Grammy Awards, one for best R&B album for "Don't be afraid of the dark" and a single off that LP, "Acting this way," in the R&B vocal, duo or group category.

Currently on a tour that will take him through the United States until June, when he'll start a month-long European tour, Cray will begin work in the autumn on a new album.

"I don't know what else I'd do if I had to quit this right now," Cray said. "I enjoy going to different countries and seeing different people, but the only problem is that airplanes are too slow."

B.B. King

"If I did a B.B. King song, it

would be a hit."

CHS

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Soviets join in oil output cuts

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union will cut oil exports by about five per cent in the first half of this year, TASS reported Friday. The move is part of a concerted effort by non-OPEC producers, being joined for the first time by the Soviets, to shore up world oil prices by cutting or freezing exports.

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, quoted Vladimir Arutyunyan, chairman of the state organisation charged with exporting petroleum, as saying: "Soviet oil exports for freely convertible currency will be reduced approximately by five per cent in the first six months of 1989, as against the same period of 1988."

According to Western estimates, the Soviets now export about 1.8 million barrels of oil a day. A five per cent reduction would mean a cut of 90,000 barrels daily in export sales.

TASS said Arutyunyan made the statement in response to a question from TASS about "Soviet oil export plans for the near future." He is the chairman of the Sovyntexexport all-union foreign trade association, which markets Soviet petroleum products abroad.

Last week, oil producers who are not members of the Organisa-

said the country planned to continue increasing exports in the face of falling world prices because it needed the foreign currency.

"A continued increase in oil output is encouraged by the falling oil world market prices," Filanovsky was quoted as telling TASS on Nov. 2.

"In order to maintain the Soviet Union's foreign trade balance, the country has to step up its oil exports to the world market, as oil accounts for 75 per cent of its total foreign cash earnings," he said.

The Soviet Union is in the midsts of a economic modernisation drive, championed by President Mikhail Gorbachev, that requires increasing amounts of foreign currency to buy Western technology.

Filanovsky said the government intended for workers to produce 626 million tonnes of oil and gas condensate in 1988. The actual yearly production figure, 624 million tonnes, fell somewhat short of that target.

The Soviet oil production target for 1990 is 635 million tonnes and for the year 2000, 650 million tonnes.

Egypt decrees five per cent reduction

Earlier Friday, Egypt decided to cut its oil exports by five per cent from April to June as part of a joint international effort to reduce the glut on the world market and shore up prices.

Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kan-dil announced Egypt's "major sacrifice" in a press release. He said the move means Egyptian exports will average 24,000 fewer barrels daily.

There will be no limit on yields

Bahrain raises interest rates on deposits

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has raised its interest rate ceilings on dinar denominated deposits in the wake of sharp rises in international rates, a spokesman for the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said Saturday.

The BMA told the island's 19 commercial banks it would raise the maximum recommended rates for maturities of up to six months by one percentage point effective March 1, the spokesman said.

"The ceiling for maturities of less than three months was raised to seven per cent from six while that on three to six months was

increased to 7½ per cent from 6½."

The maximum level for maturities of over six months was abolished.

Ceilings on certificates of deposit (CD's) for more than 30,000 dinars were increased by the same amount, with the level for less than three month CD's rising to 7½ per cent from 6½ and three to six months to eight per cent from seven.

Yields on CD maturities of over six months are subject to negotiation between banks and

customers.

The BMA statement clarifies reports published in Bahrain's daily Akbar Al Khaleej newspaper.

Bankers said they welcomed the move and had already begun to raise interest rates on demand and savings accounts.

"The move is a natural one which will help narrow the gap between dinar and dollar interest rates," Hassan Juma, general manager of the National Bank of Bahrain said.

Credit Suisse announces record '88 profits, major reorganisation

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's third largest bank, Credit Suisse, Friday reported record 1988 net profits and announced a major reorganisation to boost its growth prospects.

Chief executive Robert Jeker angrily denied a Swiss prosecutor's allegations that the bank had been involved in laundering drugs money, but he said it might curtail trading in banknotes as a result.

The bank's net profit rose 7.6 per cent to 592 million Swiss francs (\$377 million). Total assets were up nearly six per cent at 113 billion francs (\$72 billion).

"The fact that fears of a recession have not been borne out... has helped our bank to achieve a level of performance that has surpassed our expectations," Jeker told a news conference.

Strict cost control and a strong increase in lending made up for lower commissions on share trading after the October 1987 crash of world stock markets.

Swiss banks hold huge hidden reserves and analysts say real profits are much higher than those which they disclose.

Credit Suisse (C.S.) Chairman Rainer Gut said it planned to make its sister company C.S. Holding the parent for the entire group, heading an international organisation offering a wide range of banking and business services.

Credit Suisse shareholders may exchange their current shares for

shares in C.S. Holding and will also be invited to buy new shares on favourable terms.

Gut said the new structure would be simpler and would create an improved basis for future growth.

"Throughout the 1990s and beyond, we aim to be among the few major corporations in the world that can boast a strong capital base, a prime quality rating and a truly global operation," he asserted.

Under the new structure, C.S. Holding will have assets of 9.35 billion Swiss francs (\$5.95 billion).

In a break with the Swiss tradition of providing only limited financial data, the new company will publish consolidated figures from its first year of operation.

Jeker acknowledged that allegations of involvement in money-laundering had tarnished the bank's reputation but he strongly denied it had done anything wrong.

A public prosecutor has said that two Lebanese brothers, under investigation for allegedly laundering drugs money in an affair dubbed the "Lebanon connection," deposited about 1.4 billion Swiss francs (\$891 million) with Credit Suisse.

The Lebanon connection has become a major political scandal in Switzerland. Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp was forced to resign in December after admitting warning her husband that a company of which he was vice-

chairman would be implicated. No charges have been brought in the case.

Jeker said: "I would like to stress that no Credit Suisse employees were found to have committed offences with regard to the Lebanon connection that require or justify action being taken against them."

Jeker said banknote trading accounted for just 1.6 per cent of 1988 profits.

"In the light of recent developments we will be considering whether this line of business will have to be curtailed. However much care is exercised, it is never possible to guarantee that a bank will not be misused for the purposes of money-laundering," he said.

Share analysts said the restructuring showed Credit Suisse had a clearer and more effective global strategy than its larger rivals, Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp.

Both of them reported rises of around 3.5 per cent in 1988 net profit.

"This is a very clever move — it will lead to greater transparency, it's good for shareholders and it doesn't discriminate against foreigners," said Roland Lentschener, an analyst at Bank Julius Baer in Zurich.

Serge Ledermann of Lombard, Odier Cie in Geneva, said: "They have the best strategy and are going to be among the best global players in the future."

Eastern Airlines' employees strike

MIAMI (AP) — Eastern Airlines employees walked off their jobs just after midnight Saturday in a strike that threatened to cause nationwide transportation chaos and could put one of the nation's largest airlines out of business.

The strike was called by the machinists union that represents Eastern's 8,500 mechanics and ground employees. The airline's 3,400 pilots voted overwhelmingly to honor the strike.

Meanwhile, machinists members in other transportation fields

planned sympathy strikes that could shut down Amtrak — the national passenger railroad — and commuter railroads that carry hundreds of thousands into some of the country's largest cities.

"It's the most overwhelming support I have seen in the history of the labour movement," said machinists union local president Charles Bryan after federally mediated talks collapsed in Washington and unionists threw up pickets.

"It's no longer a fight between machinists and Eastern. It's a fight between labour and corporate America," said machinists general chairman Wally Haber.

The strike capped an emotional 17-month feud over wage concessions between the union and Eastern that pitted Bryan — a charismatic leader given to quoting oriental philosophers — against Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo, a steely entrepreneur whose union-busting tactics have made him highly unpopular among organised labour.

The Miami-based Eastern — which carries about 100,000 passengers a day, primarily on the densely populated east coast and in Latin America and the Caribbean — has said it was losing about \$1 million a day. The airline wanted to implement wage cuts of about \$150 million annually.

Lorenzo warned that the strike

could put Eastern "in the corporate graveyard" and asked President George Bush not to form a special investigative panel, a move that would have delayed the wage cuts for 60 days.

Bush Friday decided against the intervention, which had been recommended by mediators.

Labour analysts saw the decision as a major indicator of how the new president would approach labour issues.

The walkout instantly disrupted Eastern flights at Miami and carloads of pickets careened into other airports at the midnight (0500 GMT) strike start.

In Miami, about 3,000 workers charged across the street from the local union hall to corporate headquarters, chanting and carrying placards.

They tore up effigies of Lorenzo, who is chairman of Texas Air which bought Eastern three years ago. Texas Air also owns Continental Airlines, which Lorenzo took into bankruptcy proceedings three years ago to end a labour dispute.

Eastern said it planned to maintain limited service to about 50 cities, counting on 200 management pilots and 1,100 nonunion mechanics hired in case of a strike.

Airports nationwide strengthened security and other airlines prepared for a surge of passengers.

Lorenzo warned that the strike

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for maturities of over six months duration. The spokesman said the step, which applies only to private customers, was aimed at stemming a possible outflow of dinars into higher-yielding dollar deposits.

"These changes are designed to increase banks' scope for funding following recent increases in international interest rates," the BMA spokesman said.

The ceiling for maturities of less than three months was raised to seven per cent from six while that on three to six months was

increased to 7½ per cent from 6½."

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 4, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	424.6
Pound Sterling	924.3	933.3	208.7
Deutschmark	291.6	294.6	35.7
Swiss franc	341.2	343.9	39.9
French franc	85.9	86.6	141.3

Japan's current account surplus drops 50%

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NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association games Friday night:

Hawks 133, Hornets 109

ATLANTA (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 35 points, including six slam dunks, before sitting out the final 16 minutes as the Atlanta Hawks crushed the Charlotte Hornets 133-109.

Atlanta never trailed, breaking a 2-2 tie on a layup by Glenn Rivers and going on to its eighth victory in 10 games since the NBA's all-star break.

Jazz 107, Heat 95

MIAMI (AP) — Karl Malone scored 15 of his 34 points in the third quarter as Utah broke open a close game. After scoring the first five points of the first half to lead 45-40, the Jazz scored the first eight points of the second half. Miami never got closer than 13 eight points thereafter.

Malone, the NBA's second leading scorer with a 29.2 average, hit his stride after 13 first-half points.

Celtics 107, Mavericks 106

BOSTON (AP) — Dennis Johnson hit a 3-point shot and a driving layup in the last two minutes to key Boston's fifth victory in its last six games. The Mavericks are winless in nine games in Boston, the only city where they haven't won.

Johnson, who had made just four of 32 shots from 3-point range this season, sank his desperation 3-pointer with the time almost run out.

Pistons 96, Cavaliers 90

AUBURN HILLS, Mich.



Bromberg: current world number one Ivan Lendl went down yesterday to the 'Big Mac' on his comeback.

McEnroe beats Lendl

DALLAS (R) — John McEnroe beat arch-rival Ivan Lendl for the first time in a four-hour semifinal match at the world championship tennis (WCT) finals.

McEnroe knocked the world number one out of the \$685,000 tournament 6-7 (3-7), 7-5 (6-4), 6-2, 7-5 and will meet his fellow American Brad Gilbert in the final Saturday.

"It was a great victory for me," said McEnroe, ranked sixth in the world.

"It means a lot to beat him in a certified match. We have gone in cycles and hopefully this one will get me going. I am elated I won."

Lendl lost his temper during the match, costing him three code violations from British professional umpire Gerry Armstrong.

They include a point penalty and a game penalty which brought him within one violation of being defaulted.

"I am not upset at the way I behaved because I did nothing wrong," said Lendl.

McEnroe beat Lendl for the

first time in three-and-a-half years and for the first time in five matches to level their career contest at 15 wins each.

Lendl started the match superbly to lead by a set and 4-2, but McEnroe seized on a concentration lapse from Lendl in the vital seventh game of the second set to keep his chances alive by winning four consecutive games.

McEnroe said he got himself pumped up through the support of the crowd of 16,123, but stayed in touch with the match by reminding himself of their encounter at the Australian Open in January which Lendl won in straight sets.

"Things were looking bad, but I hung in," said McEnroe.

In the final, with the winner getting \$200,000 and the runner-up \$100,000, McEnroe will face Gilbert for the 12th time. McEnroe has lost to him only once.

Gilbert, who came into the tournament as an alternate to replace Boris Becker of West Germany, defeated Sweden's Mikael Pernfors Thursday.

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McEnroe beat Lendl for the

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHICH FINESSE?

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ K J 4
♥ K J 2
♦ J 8 6 3
♦ A Q 6

WEST
♦ 6 2
♥ 8 7 5 3
♦ A K 7
♦ J 9 8 2
♦ K 7 3

EAST
♦ 9 7
♥ Q 10 9 4
♦ 10 9 5
♦ 10 5 4

SOUTH
♦ A Q 10 8 5 3
♥ A 6
♦ 4 2
♦ 10 5 4

The bidding: North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

We still remember the first time we took a winning finesse—heavy stuff, indeed. But the first time we managed to avoid taking a finesse in favor some other line is forever etched in our memory. That is when we realized that we had a talent for the game.

We like South's jump rebid of three spades. He needed some help from North if his hand were going to stretch to 10 tricks. North had an absolute maximum for his bidding, which is why he had some help from South if his hand were going to stretch to 10 tricks. North had an absolute maximum for his bidding,

so he ventured on to four spades. However, with a known source of tricks and stoppers in all suits, three no trump would have been wiser. Nine tricks were there for the taking.

The defenders started with three rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing the last of these. He had nine fast tricks and the 10th could come from a finesse in either hearts or clubs. Now we know many players who would try both and bemoan their fate when both lost and they went down a trick. Others would look for the sure-trick line that exists, as the cards lie.

Declarer should draw two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. Next comes the jack of diamonds and when East produces the queen, declarer should discard a club instead of ruffing. Assuming trumps are 2-2, as they were, East is endplayed. Whether he leads a club or a heart, he must give declarer a free finesse.

What if trumps are 3-1? If East is short in trumps and declarer plays as above, West can ruff to break up the endplay. Now declarer has to guess which, if either, finesse will succeed. And if East has three trumps, he has a safe exit card. So, with any 3-1 trump division, declarer has to ruff the fourth diamond and fall back on the two finesse.

able. By contrast, his closest rival is Girardelli, with 27 race victories.

In the finish area, other racers lined up to congratulate Stenmark in an emotional tribute to the greatest technical skier the sport has ever known.

"All year there hasn't been a racer who wasn't cheering for him to win one more time," said Kyle Wieche of Connecticut, who managed a breakthrough of his own, placing seventh.

Swedish coach Herman Nogler said Stenmark's retirement after races next month in Japan "is a sad feeling. Part of my life is ending."

Palestine to formally apply to join FIFA

RIYADH (R) — Joao Havelange, President of World soccer's governing body, said he had invited the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to meet him for talks on membership of the International Football Federation (FIFA).

Havelange told a news conference Thursday he had had an informal meeting with PFA officials attending the World Youth championship here.

"We invited the Palestinian Football Association to visit me when I am next in our Swiss headquarters in Zurich for formal talks on membership," he said.

"FIFA will be happy to give the Palestinian Football Association all the necessary information we give prospective members in their bid to seek membership," he added.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tog-

nini said the informal meeting had been the Palestinians' first approach to the federation for information on eligibility for membership.

Palestinian teams have for several years played against clubs in the Arab World.

Last November, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) proclaimed an independent Palestinian state and in January an amateur squad calling itself the Palestinian national soccer team toured Italy and France.

The tour was aimed partly at persuading the International Olympic Committee to recognise Palestine before the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

FIFA facilitated the tour by agreeing to suspend a rule forbidding members from playing against unrecognised sides.

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FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Draw up a plan of action that will be a turning point financially. Break up boring cycles by searching out new forms of experience that are emotionally satisfying. Shape experience to your needs.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Gains are shared with others. Temptations and pleasures may meet your steady course. Cool down your enthusiasm.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There is more under the surface than has been revealed. Disruptive attitudes prevail. There are winners in a disagreement.

GERMINI (May 21 to June 21) Moods may fly up and down today. Find a way to cope with small problems that are blown out of proportion. Problems can be solved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Concentrate on family affairs that bring you pleasure. A jealous friend is not as strong a foe as you originally imagined.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The constant worry of a relationship breaking up can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Stick to immediate concerns to day and stay confident.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Focus on your own pleasure, but include some warm companionship in the picture. Children bring out the best in you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The wheels of time are spinning but go nowhere. Following the dictates of

your feelings may place you where you do not want to be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) An irresistible, but reckless, friend may have you doubting the wisdom of your pursuit. Find a substitute that will fit your lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This transitional period will mature. You get what you want if you leave hands off and allow fate to work for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A recent romantic contact seems too good to be true. Don't let dust collect on your social calendar. Tug into a new social set.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Someone may refuse to believe you. Change could come swiftly. Solutions are difficult, but will work to your advantage in the end.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A disturbing development can cloud the midday but will solve itself. Give others a chance to change their minds.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY

He or she will be a communicator with mental skills and sympathetic feelings for others. Your son or daughter will be liberal, philosophical, and will have a stubborn streak that comes from a desire to be independent and free-thinking.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Sheffield Wednesday eases relegation fears

LONDON (Agencies) Sheffield Wednesday eased their relegation worries Saturday when they beat fellow-strugglers Charlton 3-1 in the only First Division soccer match to be played in England.

STANDINGS

LONDON — English Football League tables after matches played Saturday.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arsenal	27	16	7	4	52	25	55
Norwich	26	14	8	4	39	28	50
Millwall	26	12	7	7	38	30	43
Coventry	26	11	7	8	34	21	39
Manchester United	25	10	9	6	32	20	39
Liverpool	24	10	9	5	32	26	38
Nottingham Forest	24	9	11	4	34	26	38
Derby	25	11	5	9	32	30	38
Wimbledon	25	11	5	9	37	37	36
Tottenham	25	9	9	8	31	29	33
Everton	25	8	9	8	31	31	31
Middlesbrough	26	7	11	11	35	42	30
Aston Villa	27	7	9	11	37	49	29
Luton	25	7	10	10	37	49	29
Southampton	26	6	10	10	37	49	29
Queen's Park Rangers	26	6	9	12	24	27	27
Charlton	27	6	9	12	29	41	27
Sheffield Wednesday	26	6	9	11	22	36	27
Necastle	25	5	7	13	22	44	22
West Ham	24	4	6	14	20	41	18

Records crumble in Budapest</



Iranians demonstrate in Tehran demanding the death of Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses"

'Satanic Verses' film — Who would dare?

NEW YORK (R) — Muslim protests and Iranian threats have helped turn "The Satanic Verses" into a Western bestseller — but Hollywood is wary of testing the novel's box office potential.

On Friday Iranian President Ali Khamenei added death threats against anyone who dared film the novel to an order for the killing of author Salman Rushdie.

"Who would dare?" said Hollywood agent Russell Galen.

"The movie industry is easily cowed. You don't look at the movies to find that kind of courage."

Rushdie has been in hiding and under police protection since Iranian clerics put a multi-million-dollar price on his head last month for blaspheming Islam in

the novel.

His agent Andrew Wylie, who secured the Indian-born British author a reported \$800,000 for English-language publishing rights to "The Satanic Verses," told Reuters Friday that the film rights were still available.

He refused comment on whether the movie industry was shunning the book.

The same day, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Khamenei as telling tens of thousands at Tehran's university campus:

"From now on, anyone who wants to write these things, or to make a film out of it, will wait for death threats from Muslims who have accepted the imam's 'fatwa' (religious decree) and want to

carry it out."

In the West the novel, which Rushdie describes as a surrealistic depiction of the struggle between good and evil, is selling fast and its publishers said Sunday's New York Times would put it in second place in its U.S. bestseller list.

David Reiff, who edits the work of Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa and Joseph Brodsky, said the book was intensely cinematic but it could not expect Hollywood's "usual treatment."

"Bookellers have been less

than brave in terms of stocking the book. But 'movie people make the bookellers look like

books.'

"I think no one will ever make the movie," said Galen, of the

Scott Meredith Literary Agency which sold the rights for Arthur C. Clarke to Hollywood.

"They have a history of shying away from subjects much less controversial."

Hollywood may have in mind the 1977 screening of a desert

epic, "Mohammad, Messenger of God," starring Anthony Quinn.

Muslims wanted the film withdrawn. Screenings were halted temporarily and it disappeared from circulation.

Fundamentalist Christian protest disrupted screenings last year of Martin Scorsese's film "The Last Temptation of Christ."

Reiff said: "I think Hollywood was most intimidated by 'Last Temptation,' where there were bombings in France."

The past year, had been expected to be approved by the politburo for presentation to a session of the party's policy-setting Central Committee within the next two weeks.

Now, according to the official report, the new version when completed will be debated by the Central Committee — a body where cautious and conservative figures remain in the majority.

No account of the politburo discussions was issued, but the ideological tone and the intensity of the debate — at the centre of which stand Gorbachev himself and his former number two Yegor Ligachev — emerged clearly over the past week.

"It was not for this that we established Soviet power," declared the 68-year-old Ligachev

at a rally in Omsk, Siberia.

The object of Ligachev's ire

was the suggestion that bankrupt

collective and state farms, until

now kept operating through vast

subsidies, should be dissolved

and handed over to peasants to

work themselves."

Just seven days earlier, Gor-

Gorbachev faces Kremlin challenge

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership appeared split this weekend on the future of the country's farm system in a debate with strong ideological tones that could affect the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

In a two-day meeting Thursday and Friday, the Communist Party's ruling politburo failed to agree on a blueprint aimed at reshaping Soviet agriculture by turning it away from the strictly state-controlled structure of the past 60 years.

The politburo meeting, which opened on Gorbachev's 58th birthday, came after a week of intense political campaigning around the country by the Kremlin chief and other key figures.

An official report, in a bland

phrase giving little clue to its

import, said the meeting agreed that a project on farm reform presented for its approval "needs more work in the light of its discussion" by the 12-man lead-

ership body.

The documents certainly contained detailed proposals aimed at breaking the domination of the collective and state farms forcibly created by Josef Stalin between 1929 and 1932 and opening up agriculture to a wide range of new forms.

The blueprint, based on ideas

championed by Gorbachev over

the past year, had been expected

to be approved by the politburo

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Just seven days earlier, Gor-

bachev himself told a rally in the

Ukrainian capital of Kiev that the

solution of the country's food

problem required that a

"stereotypes and dogmas" be

swept away in agriculture and

ideology.

"All effective forms," he de-

clared in a reference to the land-

leasing, family and cooperative

farming he is increasingly prom-

oting, "must be given the full

right to a new life..

"Do we really have to regard as

the summit of socialist organiza-

tion those chronically loss-making

enterprises where in general

sponging dominates and where

wages bear no relation to the

work right to a new life..

"To maintain them further at

the expense of the state budget

through credits they don't pay

back not only is impossible, but it

makes no sense."

The challenge from Ligachev,

removed from his post as top

ideologist and switched to a

politburo commission on agricul-

ture last autumn, was the second

over the past month.

In early February, he told a

rally in Kharkov in the Ukraine

that only on the basis of the

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modernised and better organised,

could the shelves of the country's

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